

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 17-25, 28, and 33-40 are pending. Please enter the amendments to claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 10, 17-21, 24, 25, and 28. Applicants believe that the amendments place the claims in condition for allowance, or at least simplify issues for appeal.

Claims 1 and 24 are amended, adding the features of “obtaining at least one image with the image collection device; and obtaining audio information using a microphone associated with the gaming machine, wherein the at least one image and the audio information are stored in response to a triggering event detected by either the image collection device or the microphone.” Support for these amendments is found, for example, in paragraphs 0042 and 0084. Claims 3, 5-7, 9, 10, and 17-20 are amended to bring their language into agreement with claim 1. Claim 25 is amended to bring its language into agreement with claim 24.

Claim 21 is amended, adding the feature of “wherein an image collection device is physically incorporated with the peripheral.” Support for this amendment is found, for example, in paragraph 0066. Claim 28 includes a similar amendment. Claim 28 is also amended to clarify the language.

Claims 11, 12, 26, 27, and 32 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 34-40 are new. Support for claims 34 and 38 is found, for example, in paragraph 0085. Support for claims 35 and 39 is found, for example, in paragraph 0100. Support for claims 36 and 40 is found, for example, in paragraph 0106. Support for claim 37 is found, for example, in paragraph 0056.

The remaining claims are unchanged. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-12, 17-28, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Artino et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,328,208 (Artino) in view of DeBan et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,386,103 (DeBan).

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the outstanding rejection in view of the amendments and the following remarks. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Amended independent claim 1 recites a method of “authorizing use of a card in a gaming machine and collecting security data regarding activities associated with the gaming machine.” This includes “obtaining audio information using a microphone associated with the gaming machine.” (Claim 1). Furthermore, “the at least one image and the audio information are stored in response to a triggering event detected by either the image collection device or the microphone.” (Claim 1). Such audio information may be able to capture information regarding illegal activities occurring at the gaming machine that are not in an image collected by the image collection device. (Paragraph 0101). Also, storing the

image and the audio information only when a triggering event is detected avoids the storage of large amounts of information. (Paragraph 0081).

Artino describes a secure depository system. (Abstract). Nowhere, however, does Artino describe “obtaining audio information using a microphone associated with the gaming machine.” (Claim 1). Artino describes using cameras with the secure depository system. (Col. 3, lines 38-45). Artino does not describe obtaining audio information for any purpose.

DeBan fails to cure the deficiencies of Artino with respect to the above quoted features, regardless of whether Deban is considered alone or in combination with Artino. DeBan describes an identification and verification system which includes a card having stored thereon human facial projection characters. (Abstract). Nowhere does DeBan describe “obtaining audio information using a microphone associated with the gaming machine.” (Claim 1). With DeBan’s identification and verification system, an image of a customer is generated and facial image characteristics of a customer are collected using a camera. (Col. 3, lines 27-29 and col. 4, lines 40-41). DeBan, however, does not describe obtaining audio information for any purpose.

Thus, as explained above, Artino and DeBan, considered alone or in combination, fail to disclose “obtaining audio information using a microphone associated with the gaming machine,” as recited in claim 1. Amended claim 1 is therefore not obvious in view of Artino and DeBan. Amended claim 24 includes the same feature added to claim 1. Claim 24 is therefore also not obvious in view of Artino and DeBan.

Dependent claims 2-10, 17-20, 25, and 34-40 incorporate the features of claims 1 and 24. Therefore, the dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 24.

Furthermore, the new dependent claims include features that Applicants believe are not found in the prior art. For example, claim 34 includes the feature of “the triggering event comprises a loud sound or particular spoken words detected by the microphone.” Such spoken words may include words such as “‘cheat,’ ‘break,’ or the like.” (Paragraph 0101).

Amended independent claim 21 includes the feature of “wherein an image collection device is physically incorporated with the peripheral.” Such a feature is shown, for example, in Figure 4, with camera 132 physically incorporated with player tracking device 178, a peripheral of the gaming machine. (Paragraph 0065).

As explained in the response filed January 12, 2009, in many older gaming machines, no communication link existed with the gaming controller. (Paragraph 0069). Similarly, many older gaming machines did not have image collection devices associated with them. Providing a communication link to the gaming controller and an image collection device in such gaming machines may be time and cost prohibitive. (Paragraph 0069). With a peripheral associated with a communication link and physically incorporated with the image collection device, as is the case with certain embodiments of the claimed invention, it is

possible to upgrade older systems with the security features recited in Claim 21 by installing a single peripheral. (Paragraph 0069). This is one benefit of the claimed invention; however, it should be understood that the invention is not limited to upgrading older equipment.

Artino does not describe that an “image collection device is physically incorporated with the peripheral.” (Claim 21). The Office Action equates the image server in Artino with the peripheral. (Office Action, page 4). While the internal camera of the depository 194 described in Artino may be in electronic communication with the image server 204, the internal camera is not physically incorporated with the image server. (Figure 16).

DeBan describes a camera 36 for generating image data of a customer. (Col. 3, lines 27-29). The camera in DeBan, however, is also not physically incorporated with a peripheral as recited in claim 21.

Thus, as explained above, Artino and DeBan, considered alone or in combination, fail to disclose that the “image collection device is physically incorporated with the peripheral.” (Claim 21). Claim 21, as presently amended, is therefore not obvious in view of Artino and DeBan. Amended claim 28 includes a similar feature to that in claim 21. Furthermore, in claim 28, the peripheral is a “player tracking device.” Nowhere do either Artino or DeBan disclose a player tracking device; a player tracking device would not be associated with a “secure depository system” (Artino) or an ATM system (DeBan). Claim 28 is therefore also not obvious in view of Artino and DeBan.

Dependent claims 22, 23, and 33 incorporate the features of the claims 21 and 28. Therefore, the dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claims 21 and 28.

Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Artino and DeBan in view of Kofune et al., US Patent No. 5,482,069 (Kofune). Claim 32 is cancelled, obviating this rejection.

Conclusion

The claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance of the claims at the earliest possible date is requested.

If prosecution of this application can be assisted by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorneys at (510) 663-1100.

Applicants do not believe that any additional fees are required to facilitate the filing of this Amendment. However, if it is determined that such fees are due, please charge such additional fees to Deposit Account No. 504480 (Order No. IGT1P496D1).

Respectfully submitted,
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